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CHINESE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS REPORTS ON WORK PLANS FOR 1950

The material in the following report consists of excerpts from an address given by T'eng Tai-yuan, Minister of Railways, on 8 February 1950, to delegates from all over the country attending a Railway Labor-Union Conference in Peiping. 7

During 1949, we still had some shortcomings in our work. Among the most conspicuous faults were the following:

- In many cases there is a lack of uniformity. Some of the aspects of the divided railway control prevailing during the time of the KMT still remain. For example, since salaries are not uniform it is difficult to transfer personnel.
- 2. Serious accidents continue to occur. In the Northeast, trains are overturned. South of the Great Wall there are train collisions. There was an accident at Lung-wang-miao, which is under the Tsinan Office, and another serious collision occurred at Hua-ch'i-ying on the Tier:sin-p'u-k'ou line, north of Nan-king. This shows that our sense of responsibility is inadequate.
- 3. The system of strict cost accounting is not carried out. Waste still appears in serious proportions.

The budget for 1950 calls for receipts within the Great Wall of an amount equivalent to the value of 3,700,000,000 catties of rice. Because of the increase in the number of freight cars, a lessening of accidents, and a timely adjustment of freight charges, it can be guaranteed that this will be attained. The amount invested by the government will be a sum equivalent to the value of 1,400,000,000 catties of rice. The government must be assured it will be used properly.

This conference should discuss and draw up collective agreements. The work of drawing up agreements is very important and is bound to be difficult, but if everybody contributes a method to overcome difficulties then there will be progress.

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To bring to realization collective agreements, it is requested that each administrative unit present a plan ahead of time guaranteeing to supply needed materials, and to institute democratic control, by establishing a committee of control and calling conferences of employee delegates. It is imperative that the labor unions, in accordance with the collective agreements, constantly have organized discussion and inquiry as to conditions for improving production. Labor unions should also organize competitions and lead the employees to use their leisure time in acquiring technical skills to raise the efficiency of their work. They are to carry out rational suggestions and with a thorough sense of responsibility are to oversee the execution of the plans, combating all manifestations of bureaucratism and slackening discipline.

Every month 3 percent of the total sum spent for wages should become a reserve fund for insurance. One and one-half percent should go for cultural and educational purposes. So far as possible additional equipment should be secured for purposes of safety and health. Moreover, this year it is important that the administration and all its departments should allocate a certain sum from surpluses in the budget appropriations for incidental items. These surpluses should be applied to the support of those welfare enterprises for which the government does not need to provide much money, but to which everyone offers a little time and strength. Also a way should be found to manage a supply store.

The wage system throughout the nation must gradually become uniform. All other systems and ways of managing must be made uniform as soon as possible. We laborers, who are our own masters, should not be loathe to change the irrational heterogeneous ways left over from the KMT times.

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